



# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### 2006 CWAC Wrap UP

By Dick Williams, W3OA

In 2006 CDXA continued its record of the last few years of improving performance in the CQ World Wide DX Contest (CQWW). The scores posted on our web site show this. In 2003 we had 27 operators submitting CQWW logs and CDXA's total claimed score was just over 18 million points. This year we had 29 operators—about the same as in 2003. Yet, our total score jumped from 18 million to almost 28 million points—quite an increase we should feel good about.

We tried something new this year—entering teams in the CW and phone five-man team competitions.

- o Our CW team—Joe (AA4NN), Ron (AA4S), Doug (W0AH), Roy (WA4DOU), and Chuck (W4GMY) scored 5,488,350 points.
- o Our phone team—Steve (AA4V), Ron (AA4S), Gary (N1GC), Bob (N4PQX), and Todd (W4WTB) scored 9,711,096 points.

I'm looking forward to see how these two teams did against their world-wide competition when the results are published this fall.

CDXA members competed for first place Contest Within A Contest

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
N4HN	Thomas Wright	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

(CWAC) awards in five categories. Each winner got his choice of a trophy or a fifty-dollar gift certificate for Out-back Steak House. The winners were:

Top DXpedition Score: 4X/AA4V, Steve, 4,184,214 points

Top Combined Phone and CW Score: AA4S, Ron, 3,508,382 points

Top Phone Score: W4WTB, Todd, 2,470,664 points

Top CW Score: W0AH, Doug, 968,310 points

Top Multi-Op Score: W3GQ, Paul and his team, W3ZL, Cliff, K8YC, John, and KA8FAN, Eric, 3,776,305 points

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
NG4DX (Digi near Galax, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NG4DX, then type "C W4DXA"	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

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Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a trophy or a twenty-five-dollar gift certificate for Outback Steak House. These winners were:

AA4NN, Joe	N4PQX, Bob
W3OA, Dick	W3ZL, Cliff

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a CDXA patch. There were fourteen patch winners:

IN3QBR, Mauro	IN3ZNR, Fabrizio
KZ2I, Steve	WA4DOU, Roy
N2TU, Lou	N1GC, Gary
W4UNP, Bill	AD4IE, Paul
N4BH, Pat	N4UH, Henry
W4UFO, Nobby	KU4V, Wayne
W4WNT, Bill	K4DGJ, Sam

Every member who completed more than 100 QSOs was entered into a drawing for a world map signed by the team that went to Peter One last winter. This was the map that K4UEE, Bob, presented to the club at our dinner last March in recognition of CDXA's contribution to the DXpedition. One of the signatures on the map is that of our member KU4V, Wayne. The winner, selected by a random drawing, was KU4V. Since Wayne already had one of these maps we drew for another winner. We did and the map went to Sam Hawes, K4DGJ.

Another article in this edition of The Pileup shows important dates for CDXA members in 2007. Included are CQWW Phone, October 26 – 28, and CQWW CW, November 23-25. Please put these dates on your personal

calendar now to avoid any scheduling conflicts with the 2007 CQWW and CWAC. With more participants, we should improve our performance again in 2007.

## Broadcasters Intervene In Support of ARRL's BPL Position

*Extracted from The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 46. November 17, 2006.*

The Association for Maximum Service Television (MSTV) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) have filed a joint motion for leave to intervene in support of the ARRL in its court appeal of the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules.

The motion to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is dated November 9 and states: "MSTV and NAB believe that the regulations under review are arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law, and will adversely impact their members by, among other things, permitting unlicensed users of radio spectrum to interfere with licensed uses of the spectrum."

MSTV and NAB are entitled to intervene as a matter of right, so the Court is expected to grant the motion. As expected, some BPL proponents are seeking to intervene on the side of the FCC.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, welcomed the support of MSTV and NAB. "It is gratifying that these two prestigious broadcasting organizations recognize the danger posed to all FCC licensees by the FCC's flawed BPL rules. It's good to have them on our side."

## Holiday Hearings

In the lobby of the Westin Hotel in downtown Charlotte this recent Holiday season, a group of chess enthusiasts had checked into the hotel and were discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of his office and asked them to disperse.

"But why?" they asked, as they began to move off.

"Because", he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

In that same hotel, an hour later a man walked into the bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and said, "A beer please, and one for the road." You just never know what's "going down" in Charlotte in the holiday season.

### The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
P. O. Box 577  
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: cliffw@adelphia.net.

## 2007 Dues Payable Now!

Yessiree, it's that time of the year again. CDXA dues are for the calendar year and are payable in December or January at the beginning of the new year.

If you use the DX Spotting Network, either via packet radio or the Internet, dues are \$30 per annum. If not a user of the spotting network, dues are \$15 per annum. Your officers have allocated a significant amount of our dues money in recent years to support DXpeditions. If you'd care to ante a few more dollars with your dues payment, it won't be refused. At our current dues levels, CDXA is a bargain, and the dues haven't changed in 20+ years!

Please don't wait until the Hamfest to provide a "personal" payment to Cliff Wagoner, because it just keeps your officers in suspense as to what the operating income will be when planning the year's events. You can remit to Cliff at the address shown on the back cover of each issue of the **PILEUP**.

## Welcome New Members

Welcome to 2007, and welcome new members to CDXA. Among the new members are some returning members. We're glad to have all of you joining us to share our common interest in amateur radio. With two months elapsed since the last issue of the *Pileup*, our list of new members is somewhat longer this month.

David Walker (K0COP)	Aiken, SC
Marc Tarplee (N4UFP)	Rock Hill, SC
Bob Cranford (K4SI)	Lincolnton, NC
Neill Singletary (K4ESE)	Clarkton, NC
Matthew Wolf (N9MTT)	Cary, NC
Mark Pearson (W4MP)	Matthews, NC
Don Biltcliffe (N4IZ)	Charlotte, NC
Rush Johnson (W4QA)	Matthews, NC

## ARRL DX Contest Coming Soon

The two ARRL DX Contests will be in February and March. The CW contest runs the weekend beginning February 16 and the phone contest begins March 2. Full rules are at:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/intldx.html>

CDXA will be offering prizes for members' participation in these contests. More details will be in next month's Pileup. Start getting ready now!

## Holiday Party/Annual Meeting Revisited

Members of CDXA, spouses and guests returned to the Shanghai Restaurant—site of the 2006 Hamfest Dinner—for the 2006 Holiday Party and Annual Meeting of CDXA. As expected the hospitality provided by the folks at Shanghai Restaurant was superb, and the door prizes provided by CDXA member-donors, ARRL, and Shanghai Restaurant made for a festive evening.

The evening began with the usual social hour during which all got to mingle and have "eyeball QSOs" with those they hadn't seen for a while. Right on schedule, we were seated and dinner selections were made by all while socializing continued.

After dinner, the annual business meeting was held. Jack Guion, W4JG, presented a slate of nominations based on those who had indicated willingness and/or desire to serve. All past officers had expressed a willingness to continue as incumbents during Jack's canvassing of the membership, and no others sought an elected office. No nominations were received from the floor at the meeting, and the slate of officers—same as for 2006—were elected by acclamation.

Officers elected for 2007 appear below. Pictured (left to right) are: John Scott (Editor), Dick Williams (Contest Manager), Paul Sturpe (Cluster Manager-North Area), Ted Goldthorpe (President), Cliff Wagoner (Secretary-Treasurer), Wayne Setzer (Webmaster), Thomas Wright (Vice-President) and Joe Simpkins (Cluster Manager).



Following dinner and the annual meeting, drawings for door prizes was held to fit with the holiday spirit. Officers and spouses provided a number of gifts. Cindy Wright and Carol Dixon deserve special mention for providing a wonderful selection of "ladies prizes" so the event was far from a "ham only" event. The ARRL pro-

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vided a few goodies that were of general value to both men and women.

Because the event was on a Thursday evening, we didn't have a lot of people from afar. Yet, Gary Martek and spouse, Lynette, drove in from Columbia, SC. Bob Southworth and son Rod came in from Hiddenite to the north. We hope to see many more of you at the Charlotte Hamfest dinner in March.

### **Belated Thanks!**

By John Scott, K8YC

It is the morning after one of my volunteer days at Discovery Place. I've been serving as a volunteer demonstrator of amateur radio there for nearly 11 years. There is a plaque over the door of the radio room at Discovery Place citing charter donors who made the radio room possible. Among them are King Hussein of Jordan, Senator Barry Goldwater, and famed TV personality Arthur Godfrey. I often stop and thank those who had the foresight to allow our hobby to have a place in front of the public both for its humanitarian and technological merits.

The recognizable names above are commingled with a number of other names, many of whom I know personally. Some of the names are Silent Keys. A few I don't know, but perhaps you do. Yet, a large majority of the names are—you guessed it—members of the Carolina DX Association. So, for all of those who've passed through the halls of Discovery Place, I offer thanks to the following current members of CDXA who answered the call to fund the radio room nearly 15 years ago:

Joe Barkley (KI4TZ), Frank Dowd (K4BVQ), Ted and Itice Goldthorpe (W4VHF & K4LVV), Al Guin (W4ZQB), Jack Guion (W4JG), Ervin Jackson (N4BIG), Bill and Joey Parris (AA4R & N4NPT), Rob and Judy Rochelle (W4DAZ), Bob Southworth (KI4YV), and Ken Winston (WA4OBO).

**Thank you ladies and gentlemen!**

### **Cabrillo—Version 3 Cometh**

*Extracted from "Contest Rate Sheet" for November 15, 2006*

*Edited by Ward Silver (N0AX)*

In the beginning, there were paper log sheets and paper summary sheets and it was a pain. Fingers hurt, handwriting was poor, and the dog sometimes ate the paperwork—although not quite as often as blamed. Thus of necessity was computer logging begat and there were diskettes and it was a pain. Diskettes covered the desk like locusts, file names were as babble, and the postman sometimes ate the diskettes—although not as frequently as claimed. Thence came email and it was a pain. File formats were without number, encoding and attachments spoke in tongues, and the contest sponsors sometimes ate logs for dinner—although rarely to the extent imagined or wished.

Then came Cabrillo 1.0 and confusion was upon the land. Was it a format, a method, or what? Robots were created and sent to guard the Inboxes of the contest sponsors, passing no file that smelt too strongly of non-Cabrillo-ness. And there was a gnashing of teeth and rending of garments as software author and user alike made haste to achieve full compliance lest their scores not be tallied with the rest in the Final Results.

And Cabrillo 2.0 came forth and there was a little less gnashing and rending and the process became less onerous and the robots smote fewer and fewer logs with each passing contest. And there was a great yearning—for more contests and for more categories and for greater variation than had hitherto been permitted. The scribes of Cabrillo did mutter and did think and did release version 3.0. And thus begins our tale.

As anyone that deals with lots of contest knows, there are lots and lots of different definitions for any of the categories and vocabulary used to describe an entry. Some contests distinguish between single-op assisted and unassisted while others separate the same logs into single-op and multi-op. For any contest with more than a handful of categories, entrants often have no idea what their true category really is. Some entrants really don't care—they are just having a good time and sending in a log to note their participation and provide more information to the sponsors.

What Cabrillo 3.0 does is to allow entrants to simply pick the "adjectives", if you will, that describe how they operated and the contest sponsors can then determine

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the proper category for the entry.

Cabrillo adjectives are recognized values for the various types of information or "tags" that characterize an operation. The version 2.0 tag "CATEGORY:" is dropped in favor of a basket of finer-grained distinctions. For example, for the tag "CATEGORY-ASSISTED", there are two recognized values (or adjectives): ASSISTED and NON-ASSISTED. For the tag "CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER", recognized values include ONE, TWO, UNLIMITED, and SWL. This avoids the inevitable conflicts between competing definitions of categories in different contests.

Here is an example of how this works: An ARRL 10 Meter Contest operation done mobile by two operators taking turns at the rig, low power, one radio, no assistance, phone only would describe their operation this way:

CATEGORY-ASSISTED: NON-ASSISTED  
 CATEGORY-BAND: 10M  
 CATEGORY-OPERATOR: MULTI-OP  
 CATEGORY-MODE: SSB  
 CATEGORY-POWER: LOW  
 CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: ONE  
 CATEGORY-STATION: MOBILE

For awards purposes, the entry category will be considered as "Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Mixed Mode." The extra information - Low Power, Mobile, SSB - can then be included for comparison to other similar operations.

There is an interesting side-effect to including information beyond that required for a specific contest: the extra information can be included with on-line scores. For example, SO2R may not be a formal category, but the entry can include the tags and values "CATEGORY-OPERATOR: SINGLE-OP" and "CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: TWO". The sponsor will list the score in the SO category, but may choose to append "two-transmitter" to the score.

If the extra information is simply copied from the Cabrillo file so that the format is consistent, then on-line information can be downloaded and analyzed by third-parties...that means YOU! It makes "Contests Within A Contest" a lot easier, as well, and frees the sponsor from having to create ever more categories.

Another similar change in Cabrillo 3.0 is that there is now a general "LOCATION:" tag. Recognized values for the tag are defined by the contest sponsors and not

maintained in the Cabrillo specification. ARRL contests will use this tag to report scores by ARRL sections. Other contest sponsors can define their own values for this tag.

Do you have to upgrade your contest software? Nope, although authors of contest logging software will be adding the version 3.0 tags and values to their programs. Version 3.0 also has a new tag called "DEBUG:" that allows software authors to test their Cabrillo generation routines by sending logs to a real log-handling robot.

When is this going to happen? Um, it's already happening! The CQWW SSB, California QSO Party, and several other log-handling robots are already compliant with version 3.0. In fact, they convert version 2.0 logs to version 3.0 automagically. You didn't even notice, did you?

Would you like to know more about Cabrillo 3.0? Take a look at author N5KO's discussions at: <http://www.kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo>, where the actual format description lives along with templates and recommendations. This is how it's supposed to work. Can you imagine going back to the Good Old Days? And the log sheets were as leaves in the forest and the aspirins as grains of sand... 73, Ward N0AX

## 2007 Calendar

Here are some dates of important activities for CDXA members in 2007. I suggest you put these on your personal calendar now to minimize the chance of scheduling conflicts arising as we go through the year.

CQ World Wide 160 Meter, CW Jan 26-28  
 ARRL DX Contest, CW Feb 16-18  
 CQ World Wide 160 Meter, Phone Feb 23-25  
 North Carolina QSO Party Feb 25  
 ARRL DX Contest, Phone Mar 2-4  
 Charlotte Hamfest Mar 10-11  
 CDXA Annual Hamfest Banquet Mar 10  
 CQWW WPX SSB Contest Mar 24-25  
 Dayton Hamvention May 18-20  
 CQWW WPX CW Contest May 26-27  
 ARRL June VHF QSO Party June 9-11  
 Field Day June 23-24  
 CQ World Wide, VHF July 21-22  
 Shelby Hamfest Sept 1-2  
 ARRL September VHF QSO Party Sept 8-10  
 CQ World Wide, RTTY Sept 28-30  
 SEDCO/Ten-Tec Hamfest Sept 29  
 CQ World Wide, Phone Oct 26-28  
 CQ World Wide, CW Nov 23-25  
 ARRL 160 Meter Contest Nov 30-Dec 2  
 ARRL 10 Meter Contest Dec 8-9



### Skip Richardson, AA4U (SK)

In late 2006 we learned of the passing of Skip Richardson, AA4U. Skip was a long time member of CDXA. Until recently, Skip had lived in Charlotte, but he returned with his wife, Charlotte, to his native Alabama as his health began failing a few years ago. Skip remained a member of CDXA to the end.

With the notice of his passing, some long-time CDXA members recalled fondly on the CDXA email reflector of Skip's climbing skills and his physical strength when needed atop a tower during installation of big beams. The days of climbing were over by the time I got to know Skip, but lunches with Skip at Shoney's in the late 1990's were always time for a chuckle or two. We'll miss you, Skip. —*The Editor*

### Bob Thomas, N4BX (SK)

Since the publishing of the November, 2006 *Pileup*, we learned of the sudden passing of Bob Thomas, N4BX. Bob had been a long-time member of CDXA although not active in the past few years as he began dismantling his station. Bob was also active in the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society for many years along with many others in CDXA.

Bob was a regular at luncheons in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Jack Guion (W4JG) and Bob could always be found together at a table. If one managed to grab a spot at that table, there was never a dull moment! We'll remember the good times you gave us, Bob. —*The Editor*.

### DXpeditions on the Horizon

In the course of the past two months there has been a perceptible improvement in radio propagation, even if the SFI, A, and K indices don't indicate things are that much better. We've all been treated to the operation at the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1A4A) in the first week of January. Yet, there's much more in store for the balance of January and early February:

Dates	Place	Callsign Designated
1/6-20	Burkina Faso	XT2C
1/7-30	Cambodia	XU7ACY
1/8-21	Taiwan	BX0ZR
1/15-?	Lakshadweep	VU7RG
1/10-16	Bangladesh	S21XA
1/18-29	Tanzania	5H?
1/25-30	Palau	T88AI, AO, OP, CY
2/1-14	Sprately Islands	DX0JP

See you in the pileups!!

### CDXA in Italy

Many of us have worked Fabrizio "Brix" (IN3ZNR) and Mauro (IN3QBR) in contests—most recently when they were in Sardinia for CQWW. Some of us have even met Mauro when he made a presentation in Charlotte about his trip to Laos and Vietnam a number of years back and when he subsequently returned to the USA to attend the Dayton Hamvention. We are fortunate to share the fellowship of these two in the true ham spirit.

Fabrizio recently shared the picture shown below with me. His accompanying comments state:



The "diploma" offered by the ARI Section of Cassino knows a good set of initials.

*"The ARI Section of Cassino, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the City and the famous Montecassino Abbey's destruction, institutes the CDXA permanent Award that will be released to all OM and SWLs requesting it. The award apparently commemorates those who participated in the Battle of Montecassino and requires QSO confirmation with 20 of the participant nations in the battle and at least one QSO with the political divisions housing the memorial cemeteries where the fallen lie.*

I think both Mauro and Brix enjoy their association with CDXA from "across the pond". In the recent article by Brix about Western Sahara, he stated that he was wearing his CDXA shirt there. Now, imagine this. Wayne Mills (N7NG) in his capacity as a representative of ARRL must go to Italy. He walks into a meeting with Italian hams and finds that no matter how far and wide he goes, he can't get away from the Carolina DX Association. (See picture next page!)



**“Hello, Mr. Mills, I am Fabrizio Vedovelli, and I am a member of the Carolina DX Association. I am pleased to meet you in Italy.”**

Move along to the Fall of 2006 when Mauro and Brix go to lovely Sardinia to contest for CQWW. What does Brix wear? His CDXA CQWW 2005 CWAC shirt, of course! All who worked enough QSOs in 2005 CWAC know what that shirt is for. Below, Brix is ready for action wearing, of course, his CDXA shirt!



Mauro was also ready for action when in Sardinia. He brought along his “Secret Weapon” to give him the needed advantage to operate SOOB on 160m in that contest. To the right, we see Mauro “tweaking” his pride and joy.



So, all members of CDXA can sleep at night knowing that the CDXA banner is being carried by our two “international” members in the Dolomite mountains of Northern Italy where Brix and Mauro reside.

Being a ham and meeting people all over the world—even if only on the radio—is a wonderful experience.

### **Ahhhhhhhh. . . . Contesting!**

We’ve a slight pause in the contesting season before getting into the ARRL International DX Contests and CQWW WPX Contests. Although the January VHF contest is imminent.

Nothing better than contesting you say? Just look at the contentment on the face of Eric Webner (KA8FAN) while operating CQWW SSB recently at W3GQ’s Multi-Single station. Sheer bliss!!!



## The Back Page

For a final recap of **CDXA's efforts in CQWW and CWAC**, see the Front Page.

Don't forget that our treasurer is looking for your **dues** payment right now!

**Broadcasters line up with hams and the ARRL** in taking a stand against the FCC's handling of the BPL issue. See Page 3, inside.

**New members** continue to find CDXA. A welcome goes out to the latest arrivals on Page 3.

Ward Silver discusses **a new version of Cabrillo files** that promises to more accurately define your contest entry. See Page 4.

A **2007 Calendar of amateur radio activity** is inside on Page 5. Annotate your home calendar now with the dates so that you don't miss out on the fun.

See page 6 for a lineup of **interesting DXpeditions** coming up in January and early February.

A concise presentation of the **new band plans** is available as a PDF file from the ARRL at the following URL: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>

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**First Class Mail**

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